

Memo to Mr Burns re purchase
of New Hebrides Lands
from D. H. & P. Coy.

In our interview this morning Mr Allee Hunt said that Mr Hughes was unable to go thoroughly into the matter yesterday & that Mr Hughes had not expressed himself decidedly, nor did Mr Hunt think that in the present confused state of Federal politics anything further than the friendly view towards us before expressed by Mr Hughes could be expected.

For himself he would not like to make any definite promise beyond the view expressed yesterday that it would ~~be~~ give us a claim for consideration in future contract settlements which he would place prominently before any future Minister, but he could not pledge any future Minister except Mr Deakin who had agreed to the purchase.

In reply to a direct question he said that undoubtedly in a Coalition Ministry. Mr Deakin would resume the portfolio of External Affairs, whoever might be Premier.

In these circumstances, are we to purchase? If so there is time for cable negotiations starting from say £600 as there is no mail to Noumea before May 10th.



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In these circumstances, are we to purchase? If so, there is time for cable negotiations starting from, say, £600, as there is no Mail to Noumea before May 18th.